



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### From Reflection to Resurrection

by *Judy Vasby, President*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should  
boast save in the death of Christ  
my God.*

*All the vain things that charm  
me most, I sacrifice them to His  
blood.*

[verse 2- When I Survey The  
Wondrous Cross, # 298 UMH;  
Galatians 6:14]

As I write, we are in the  
Church season of Lent, a time of  
introspection and reflection on  
how we are living. We ask God  
to show us if there are thoughts,  
habits, or actions that need cor-  
rection in order to become more  
like Christ. Although Lent is not  
mentioned in the Bible, it has

#### In this issue:

<i>President's message</i>	1
<i>Editor's Letter</i>	2
<i>Spiritual Growth</i>	3
<i>Annual Gathering</i>	3
<i>Program Resources</i>	4
<i>Education &amp; Interpretation</i>	4
<i>SOCM Insert</i>	4-8
<i>SOCM Article</i>	9
<i>Green Team Update</i>	10
<i>HHGN Update</i>	10-11
<i>School Show &amp; Tell</i>	11

become tradition to set aside the  
time between Ash Wednesday and  
Easter to look inside ourselves to  
see where we have been falling  
short of Christ's best for us and to  
realize that our own sin put Jesus  
on the Cross. Many people give up  
a special food or activity that they  
enjoy, as a small symbol of what  
Jesus gave up for them.

This is a good time, also, to  
look at not just ourselves, but our  
units and circles to see if they are  
all they can be to reflect God's  
love, Jesus' sacrifice, and the Holy  
Spirit's wisdom.

Are we adjusting meeting  
times to accommodate more wom-  
en? Are we providing activities to  
welcome and nurture youth? Are  
we studying about and praying for  
people around us who are bending  
under the loads of poverty, human  
trafficking, immigration policies,  
domestic violence, or addictions?  
Are we doing all we can to raise  
money to support mission projects  
that help them? Are we reaching  
out to them personally? Or, have  
we turned our circles and units  
into social clubs for our personal  
entertainment, rather than our  
spiritual edification?

Do we work hard to raise  
funds for mission, but neglect to  
imagine ourselves in their situa-  
tions in order to gain real under-

standing?

Do we fail to  
see ourselves  
as Christ's  
representatives in everything we  
do and say? Are we walking and  
speaking love everywhere we go?  
Who we are individually is reflect-  
ed in who we are as a group.

In UMW we have many  
opportunities to learn about the  
world in which we live: response  
magazine, the reading program  
books, our yearly Mission Ac-  
tion Day, Wisconsin's Charter for  
Racial Justice programs, School of  
Christian Mission, the UMW Pro-  
gram Book, speakers and work-  
shops at our district and confer-  
ence annual gatherings and district  
and cluster enrichment events, and  
retreats.

These all incorporate Holy  
Scripture to keep our focus on  
God and to help us grow closer to  
Jesus.

May your reflections result in  
resurrection with insights, cleans-  
ing and renewed faith to move  
forward in new ways of love and  
service.

Blessings—

*Judy Vasby*

*Wisconsin Conference President*

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*Phone: 608-576-0173*



# FROM THE EDITOR

by Stacy Ganzer, Editor and Website Administrator

With spring comes new growth, new beginnings and a chance to start fresh. Flowers bloom. Trees bud. Animals give birth to a new generation. And United Methodist Women look forward to wonderful opportunities throughout the year.

This month we have the chance to hear an update on South Sudan from Anita Henderlight, Director of Africa Education and Leadership Initiative. I hope you all get the chance to visit with Anita and hear her stories of inspiration and hope for the new country of South Sudan.

When I see all the blooms and buds out there, I can't help but feel a sense of anticipation. The snow has melted and the warm weather (which passed for some of us only a few short weeks ago) will once again appear.

So, what is your unit doing to bring a sense of anticipation to the women of your church? Are you using the Program Book to guide you on your journey? Is the Prayer Calendar an integral part of your unit's meetings? Are you praying for women, children and youth in your neighborhoods, your communities, our state, our nation and around the world?

In a few short weeks we will have another chance to go back to school. Yes, that's right. You heard it here. School will be in session at the end of July and first of August. Are you planning on spending four days with us in Wausau for School of Christian Mission 2012? There are some wonderful studies this year and some great study leaders, too. And this year we will be at a brand new venue—The Westwood Conference Center and Fairfield

Inn and Suites. You really don't want to miss out on SOCM this year. There is so much to learn, so many new friends to meet, and some fun activities that will get you excited about missions. And if that doesn't spark your interest, then maybe some time away from the hustle and bustle of life to reconnect with God through worship, song and Bible study can entice you to join us.

Immigration, Human Trafficking, our Carbon Footprint on the earth, the Charter for Racial Justice—the list goes on and on. We are inundated daily with different points of view from TV, radio, the internet and other sources. Politicians have one view. Lobbyists another. And when all is said and done, the Bible grounds us to God's message of love and hope through Jesus Christ.

So, I leave you with food for thought: Who are we as United Methodist Women? Are we communicators of God's message of love for all? Are we peacemakers? Are we educators? Do we strive to bring justice, equality and hope to those in need? And are we instruments of change in a world that is more connected now than ever before?

Change is a scary word for many of us. It means that we have to step out of our comfort zone and do things differently. It also means that someone else might have an idea that we've never tried before. But change is good for the soul. Jesus didn't come here and do the same thing that everyone else was doing. He brought such a wave of radical hospitality and sacrifice that many feared those

who followed in his footsteps. Those early Christians didn't sit in their synagogues and pray. They went out and became the change the world needed. They traveled to new places and met new people, all in the name of Jesus. And the world has seen the results of their work for more than 2,000 years.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

Be the change in your local unit. And watch the good things that happen when we strive to be more like Jesus.

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## Catch the Vision

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Wisconsin Conference



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# SPIRITUAL GROWTH MISSION COORDINATOR

## London Bridge is Falling Down...

by Karen Stimeling, Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Many of us remember playing this game as a child. The song was literally a political statement, but we frolicked to the tune without this awareness.

Today we are inundated by politics wherever we turn. Yes, even in the church. As adults, we read the newspapers, watch TV, read emails, and the bombardment of information assaults our senses.

**“Too many of us spend far too much time with the editorial page... We get our interpretation of politics and economics and morals from journalists when we should be getting only information. The meaning of the world is most accurately given to us by God’s word.”—RUN WITH THE HORSES** by Eugene Peterson.

Psalm 25: 4-5—*“Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”*

How do we get God’s guidance? When we read the Bible and constantly learn from it, we gain the wisdom to perceive God’s direction for our lives. We can become desperate with

everyday decisions we must make—desperate to have someone show us the right way. Who is right? Who is wrong?

When we are willing to humbly seek God, learn from His Word, and obey his Commands, then we will receive his specific guidance.

I personally hope to see you at all the Conference scheduled events. Your presence and input enriches all who attend. As a recipient of the information given, you will enrich your unit and your church, too.

All-powerful God, help us gain a clearer picture of ourselves as your children. Look with mercy upon all that we do, and deliver us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties. Please be with the General Conference delegates as they diligently study difficult issues. Guide our United Methodist Women who continue volunteer work to help women, youth and children in the world. Amen.

*Karen Stimeling,*  
*Wisconsin Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator*  
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### **Annual Gathering—Sun Prairie United Methodist Church** **Friday night and Saturday, October 20-21, 2012** **“Faith, Hope, Love in Action: Singing God’s SongS”**

The theme of our Gathering is well stated by this anonymous quote:

*As children of God, we are called to contribute to the singing of God’s song through our own unique gifts. Some are called to be in the front line to lift voices of protests and rallies for systemic changes. Some are called to tend to the physical needs of the captives by making quilts and seeing to their daily needs by providing aid packages. Still others care for the soul of the captives through listening to their stories and sharing their experiences. All the parts come together to form God’s song. What is important is to find our place on God’s choir and sing out.*

We will have first-hand experience of witnessing and participating in many of the parts that form God’s song.

On Friday evening, the Sun Prairie Church music department will welcome us with a concert consisting of various forms of music. This church is known for its exceptional musical talents, promising a memorable

evening for all.

On Saturday, God’s song will be demonstrated through our work as United Methodist Women as we conduct the necessary annual business, praise God through worship and experience several workshop mission venues. Specific details will be available for your choosing in the next issue of *Catch the Vision*. We plan to include a workshop in both the Spanish and Hmong languages.

Hmong egg rolls for purchase will be something special this year. You will have opportunity to pre-order them to take home. All proceeds from this activity will go to the Hmong House of Good News in Milwaukee.

25 scholarships will again be provided on a first ask basis. The scholarship will cover registration for the event. (Motel is on your own) Registration blanks and details will be in the next issue of *Catch the Vision*.

Mark the dates—Oct. 20-21—and BE THERE!

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# BROWSING THE READING PROGRAM ONLINE

by *Gloria Carter, Secretary of Program Resources*

Hey, readers! Have you discovered the online community for the Reading Program on UMWonline? It's an online group where you can discuss issues related to the Reading Program, share thoughts about what you're reading, make book recommendations and see what other readers recommend. If you haven't checked out UMWonline yet, go to [www.umwonline.net](http://www.umwonline.net). It's easy to join. Just follow the steps to register as a new user.

Here are some things I've learned recently when I visited the Reading Program group (that you may already know):

1.) The Mission Resource Center is part of UMR Communications, which produces the United Methodist Reporter. UMR and United Methodist Women partnered to create the Center for the production and distribution of the materials we use, such as mission studies, program books, prayer calendars and free resources. When Reading Program books are purchased through the Mission Resource Center, the money is used to support UMW resources.

2.) United Methodist Women members are resourceful in making Reading Program books available to their readers. (You all know that!) Both individuals and local UMWs buy books, borrow from public



libraries, and swap within their groups and with other UMWs. One conference buys books for its own Reading Program library that anyone can borrow from. Another district has a lending library where individuals can put books to be shared. When the book is no longer eligible

for the Reading Program, it is returned to the original owner. Wouldn't we all agree with this woman who shared her motto: "Get it from wherever, just read it!"

3.) On May 14 at 4 p.m. EST, the Global Board of Church and Society will host a National Call with Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*, one of our 2012 Reading Program books. Read the book in a small group in your church, such as a UMW group, and you can share in the discussion. More information is posted in the Reading Program group.

Finally, by the time you read this the 2012 mission study books may be available. Haiti continues as the geographic study and is available now. The spiritual growth study Immigration and the Bible and the issue study Poverty are coming. Watch for them!

*Gloria Carter,*  
*WI Conference Secretary of Program Resources*  
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## IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES

by *Kay Putman, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation*

Hello Spring! Hope all is well with you and yours. I'm in hopes that my suggestion for you to use the Mission Today requirements for programming ideas is working well. Don't forget the great programs in the Program Book. Response magazine is a treasure trove of material for programming. There are also Reading Program books that you can use.

I could go on and on, but I will only offer two more ideas. School of Christian Mission studies are wonderful for short or long term programs. Don't forget to ask a district or conference officer to facilitate a program for you. They could do "Where the Money Goes" or answer any number of questions you might have.

Take every opportunity to participate in district and conference events. This can be a valuable learn-

ing experience for all of us. Keep your calendar open for the upcoming November training event. This is a MUST for district officers and will be a valuable time for local officers and others to learn about United Methodist Women.

If you have good program ideas, please feel free to share them with me. I am always looking to pass along what you share to others.

Hope to see everyone at School of Christian Mission. This year we are at Westwood Conference Center, in Wausau. See you there!

*Kay Putman*  
*Education and Interpretation*  
215 Water #205  
Lodi, WI 53555



# THAT ALL MAY HAVE LIFE

by Julie Mieke, Dean of Wisconsin School of Christian Mission

“That All May Have Life” is the theme for this year’s School of Christian Mission. With that theme in mind, as you look through the flyer (pages 5-8) you will find the line “let us change what needs to be changed.” It was not our intention for these words to be taken literally when we suddenly had to move School to a new location.

Dee Klawitter and I were informed the Monday after 2011 Conference Annual Gathering that the Ramada, in Stevens Point, would be torn down.

So, being resourceful United Methodist Women, Dee, Judy Vasby and I visited numerous sites and investigated days of availability for our School this year. We came up with a beautiful site for a little less than what we paid while we were at the Ramada.

Unfortunately, or fortunately as the case may be, the housing is off site. A set of rooms is blocked at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, in Weston, which is about 10 minutes away. It is a brand new facility with a pool and hot tub. We hope you will choose to stay at the Fairfield, since it is our official SOCM hotel.

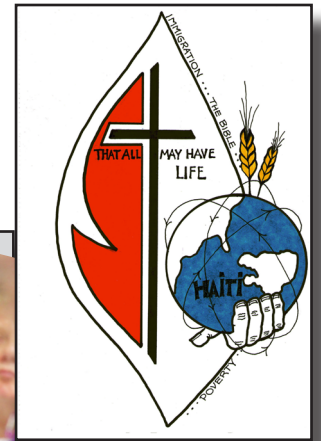
The \$45 per night, per person hotel cost while we were at the Ramada was included in your registration and there were only two to a room.

This year we took that cost out of your registration and are asking that you make your own hotel reservations. An advantage to this is that you can choose your own roommates, have up to four in a room, and eat a hot breakfast that is included in the cost of the room.

A full-sized coach bus will provide free transportation to and from the conference center every morning and evening. There will also be a van that will run from the conference center to the hotel and back every 15 minutes throughout the day.

If you choose to stay at another hotel, there is NO breakfast provided at the Westwood Conference Center (sight of School this year) and you will need

to provide your own transportation to and from the conference center.



One of the studies this year is Poverty. In response to this study, the SOCM committee is asking you to bring mission items that will help Neighbors Place, in Wausau. We are asking for either non-perishable food items for the food pantry or new personal hygiene prod-

ucts, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, feminine hygiene products, etc. Please do not bring used items or items that are not in their original packaging.

I am excited about the exceptionally qualified study leaders we have this year. Leading Immigration in the Bible are Dan Dick, Fernando Siaba and Barbara Dick. Leading the study on Poverty are Rob Odum and Judy Siaba. Deborah Thompson will lead Haiti and Julia Mayeshiba and Julie Prouty are leading the youth.

YOMICA will happen on July 31-Aug 5th at Pine Lake Camp.

Since this is **School** of Christian Mission, does that mean I have to study like I did when I was in school? No. School of Christian Mission is an opportunity to learn, learn, and learn some more. Some seem to be frightened of the term “school,” but all you have to do is look at this as an opportunity to “expand [your] concepts of mission.”

See you at School!

Julie Mieke, Dean of School of Christian Mission

# GREEN TEAM UPDATE: YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

by Laura Pfeffer, Women's Division Green Team

We have all heard the phrase, "You are what you eat". So if we claim to be Christians—what do Christians eat? Do we eat food that pays the farmer less than the cost to produce the food? Do we eat food that is grown in ways which overuse or contaminate water, expose farm workers to dangerous chemicals and destroy the rich diversity God created? Do we eat food that drives small farmers off their land and destroys our health?

As Christians, one of our defining sacraments, the Eucharist, is about commemorating and re-enacting a sacred meal, yet our daily eating habits inside and outside



of church rarely reflect any awareness of the connection between faith and food.

I invite you to consider utilizing the **Food Audit toolkit** (<http://greenfaith.org/success-stories/just-released-food-audit>) or **Repairing Eden** (<http://greenfaith.org/resource-center/stewardship/food-and-faith>) to help your congregation assess their food impact and faithfulness.

Together we can be Christians and healthy eaters, too. Thanks be to God!

Laura Pfeffer  
Women's Division Green Team  
[ljspence@aol.com](mailto:ljspence@aol.com)



## Hmong House of Good News - Moob Tsev Moo Zoo

*Hmong House of Good News is a social service organization that serves the needs of Hmong elders in the Milwaukee area. It was begun by Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women in March 2008 and has the approval of the Wisconsin Conference Board of Global Ministries. Its purpose is to bring Hmong seniors, aged 55 and over, out of isolation and to a place where they can socialize, enjoy nutritious Hmong meals, do crafts, join a Bible study, garden, and learn English along with American culture. It is housed in the Central UMC in Milwaukee and is open three days per week.*

While we covet your prayers and appreciate your donations of food, fabric, and craft supplies, our strongest need is for money to pay basic operating expenses and door to door transportation for elders, most of whom can not take public transportation due to lack of English speaking and reading skills, or due to handicapping conditions. We need approximately \$60,000 to offer our free services.

Therefore, we invite you to participate in one or more of these ways:

1. Designate Hmong House as the recipient of your church's Noisy Collection (Change for Change/ Coins Count Up/ Empty Your Pockets/etc.). Send the money directly to Hmong House of Good News, c/o Treasurer Patsy Ruppe, 2427 Sunrise Rd., Racine, WI 53402 OR to the Wisconsin Annual Conference UMC Treasurer, 750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590. Indicate Advance #7809.

2. Be a "Partner in Mission." This is a means of sustainable support in which you, your church, or your unit sign up to give Hmong House of Good News a designated amount either monthly or yearly. You may choose to have the money taken automatically from your checking or savings account, or you may pay by check. Sustainable giving allows us to know when money will be received so that we can manage our budget more efficiently. The total pledged for 2012 is \$8395.00 and we are so grateful.

3. Milk Moola and Donuts to Dough from Kwik Trip Stores. Collect bottle caps or bag tops from Nature's Touch milk and juice or ice cream cartons and Hmong House will receive 5-cents each. Also collect the price ovals from Glazer donuts boxes worth 10-cents each. We received an update on saving these items for the Hmong House of Good News from Judy Vasby UMW Conference president and on the board of HHGN.

"Keep those Moola caps and bag tops coming from Kwik Trip gas stations! (...also Glazer Donut ovals) We just sent in our first bundle for which we will receive \$50 for Hmong House of Good News. Finding that we were 4 caps short, Lydia Circle in Wisconsin Rapids made a valiant effort to buy single serving bottles of milk and juice in order to reach the goal of 1000 pieces, the minimum number allowed per reimbursement request. Thank you

to all who have been saving these items for Hmong House. Remember to bring them to every district or conference event. Your Education and Interpretation Coordinators will collect them. Take them to district or conference UMW events. Or mail them to: Judy Vasby, 4131 Weslan Dr., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 608-576-0173 [vasby.umw@gmail.com](mailto:vasby.umw@gmail.com).”

4. Crafts and egg roll fundraisers. We have some lovely Hmong embroidery crafts directly from Laos to sell. The aprons, wall hangings, bible covers, back pack will both support the Hmong House of Good News as well as Christian women in Laos. Our next Egg roll Fund raiser will be in Palmyra UMW in May.


5. Transportation. With the UMW help we have gotten all elders who are eligible to ride on public transportation and here are some pictures to show our happy Elders in their transportation.

6. UMW Mission Visits. In April the UMW ladies from Janesville will visit with us and share a meal. We are always excited to share our testimony and joy to be at Hmong House with our visitors. Why don't you plan to come and join us? Just give Susan Vang our director a call at:

Hmong House of Good News  
639 N 25th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
414-342-4380 and fax  
[Hmonghgn@gmail.com](mailto:Hmonghgn@gmail.com)



**SCHOOL SHOW AND TELL**



With the new School of Christian Mission venue, we have space to invite units to bring mission examples and/ or demonstrations as **SHOW AND TELL**.

Each year, Mission Today reports provide a myriad of ideas that support mission, including prayer shawls, cancer caps, infant blankets, ways to build membership, ways to include young women, etc. Bring your ideas to school.

To reserve a display area, contact Dee Klawitter, Assistant Dean, before registration deadline. We can't wait to learn more about your unit!!!

*Sorry, no items can be sold.*

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## PURPOSE

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

## 2012 DATES TO REMEMBER

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Tuesday - Wednesday</b><br><b>June 19-20</b>  | <b>North Central Jurisdiction Event</b><br><b>Drake University, Des Moines, IA</b>            |
| Thursday - Sunday<br>June 21-23                  | Midwest Regional School of Christian Mission<br>Drake University, Des Moines, IA              |
| <b>Tuesday - Friday</b><br><b>July 31-Aug. 3</b> | <b>Wisconsin School of Christian Mission</b><br><b>Westwood Conference Center, Wausau, WI</b> |
| <b>Saturday, August 4</b>                        | <b>SOCM Drive-in Day (9:00 - 3:15)</b>  |
| Friday - Sunday<br>August 24-26                  | Conference Mega Meeting @ Pine Lake   |
| <b>Friday - Saturday</b><br><b>October 19-20</b> | <b>Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering</b><br><b>@ Sun Prairie United Methodist Church</b>  |